

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2020 Special Session I - Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** SB5060

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed

**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Reeves

**3. Committee:** Senate Committee on the Judiciary

**4. Title:** Penalty for obstructing emergency services personnel in performance of mission

**5. Summary:** The proposed bill makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor to interfere with fire protection services personnel while such personnel are performing their duties. The bill also increases the penalty for interfering with emergency services personnel or fire protection services personnel while such personnel are performing their duties from a Class 2 misdemeanor to a Class 1 misdemeanor.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary (see Item #8)

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The proposed bill increases the penalty for obstructing emergency services and fire protection services personnel from a Class 2 misdemeanor to a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail and a fine of not more than \$2,500. There is not enough information available to reliably estimate the increase in jail population as a result of this proposal. However, any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth currently pays the localities \$4.00 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local-responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds a large portion of the jails' operating costs, e.g. correctional officers. The state's share of these costs on a per prisoner, per day basis varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (November 2019), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$34.07 per inmate, per day in FY 2018.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Local emergency services and fire protection services personnel, local and regional jails, Courts, and law enforcement agencies.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None